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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Officers

29 November 1976

TO: DCI

Executive Registry

76-5757

FROM:

National Intelligence Officer
for China

1. Attached is a cable from USLO on some personal aspects of the Purge. Some of the sycophants like the clown who wrote the Yellow River Concerto deserve to be strung up (I can't count the number of times I listened to that thing) but it also makes some of them, like the Ping Pong player Chuang, a little more human.

2. Stape Roy, Harry Thayer's deputy at State, told me on Friday (26 November) that State had nothing in yet on Tom Gates' future plans. Stape said he would let me know when they heard something definite. Stape would not necessarily know what was going on if Gates were using the White House Commo channel

Attachment:
Cable

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ILLICIT LINKS--INCLUDING SEXUAL--WITH CHIANG CHING.

3. ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET EMB OFF, A SHADOWY "ORGANIZATION OFFICE" UNDER THE POLITBURO IS PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE NEW LEADERSHIP. A KEY FIGURE IN THIS "OFFICE" IS SHIH CHING-YEH (STC 4258/2417/6851), CONCERNING WHOM NEITHER THE EMB OFF NOR USLO HAS ANY INFORMATION. (COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION IN DEPARTMENT OR HONG KONG FILES.)

4. QUOTING VIETNAMESE COLLEAGUES, THE SOVIET EMB OFF INDICATED THAT NANKING MILITARY REGION COMMANDER TING SHENG IS IN POLITICAL DIFFICULTY, APPARENTLY MORE FOR INEPTITUDE THAN FOR QUESTIONABLE LINKS WITH THE "GANG OF FOUR." THE MAIN THRUST OF THE CASE AGAINST TING IS THAT HE PERMITTED CHANG CHUN-CHIAO TO INFILTRATE SUPPORTERS OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" INTO HIS MILITARY REGION, ESPECIALLY AS POLITICXZ COMMISSARS.

5. COMMENT: THE SOVIET EMB OFF'S DISCUSSION IN SAME SESSION OF THE CONTENTS OF CENTRAL DOCUMENT 18 AND 19 PARALLELED OUR OWN INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. WE ARE INCLINED TO CREDIT MOST OF HIS OTHER INFORMATION AS REPORTED ABOVE, BUT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO CONCLUDE THAT AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN SPECIALIST HO YING HAS BEEN TAPPED TO REPLACE CHIAO KUAN-HUA AS FOREIGN MINISTER, GATES